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S. B. Mead, of Illinois, W. S. Sullivant, of Ohio, Wm. Darlington, of Pennsylvania, F. Lindheimer, of Texas, Geo. Engelmann, of Missouri, Wm. Boott, of Massachusetts, and T. J. Hale, of Wisconsin. Sets from the Red River of the North, collected by C. A. Hubbard, and from Texas by Berlandier, still contain many specimens not fully determined. The list of those making smaller additions is very long, and a few names only need be mentioned: Chester Dewey, John Torrey, Asa Gray, Leo Lesquereux, J. W. Robbins, Geo. Vasey and Alphonso Wood. Dr. Parry sent Colorado plants, and S. B. Buckley and M. A. Curtis Southern plants. This list of distinguished botanists will indicate the valuable character of the specimens, some of which are accompanied by the collector's comments or memoranda.

The most important series of published *Exsiccati* in the herbarium are "Herbarium Juncorum Boreali-Americanum" of Engelmann, containing 100 numbers, and "Specimina Exsiccata Muscorum" of Sullivant and Lesquereux, containing over 350 numbers. The genus *Erica* embraces 75 species, mostly from the herbarium of N. P. Sartwell, and gathered at the Cape of Good Hope. The *Characeae*, filling two portfolios, are now in the hands of Dr. T. F. Allen for verification. The herbarium is especially complete in grasses and sedges, probably the result of a study of these orders in preparing his volume on the "Gramineae of the United States." This work, which still remains in manuscript, was begun under the direction of the U. S. Patent Office, but for some unexplained reason was summarily interrupted by the Commissioner. Some idea of the fulness of the remainder of the collection may be conveyed by stating that the genus *Ranunculus* contains 83, *Aster* 123, and *Solidago* 117 specimens, representing nearly as many species.

This, like many large private herbaria, has been greatly injured by insects. Even at the present time no provision is made to have their ravages checked, although it is known that the whole collection is badly infested. Besides the herbarium proper there is a large number of duplicates intended for exchanges, which are mostly in good condition.

I take pleasure in acknowledging my indebtedness for information regarding Dr. Lapham's botanical labors to members of his family, and especially to his daughter, Miss Julia A. Lapham.

Madison, Wis.

J. C. ARTHUR.

§ 48. **Alphonso Wood.**—In the death of Alphonso Wood, which occurred at his residence in West Farms, N. Y., Jan. 4th, 1881, Natural History loses an enthusiastic, hard-working devotee, and the Torrey Botanical Club one of its most useful and respected members. Prof. Wood was born in Chesterfield, N. H., Sept. 17th, 1810, and was consequently at the time of his death in the 71st year of his age. His ancestors emigrated from England eighteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims, and settled at Concord, Mass., in 1638. He was the sixth remove from William Wood, the founder of the family in America. His boyhood up to the age of 15 was spent at home on the farm, where he divided his time between rural employments and attending the village school and academy. Subsequently, his winters

were occupied in teaching in village schools and carrying on his own studies. At the age of 20, having been trained to self-reliance, he entered the sophomore class in Dartmouth College, from which he was graduated with honor in 1834. On account of his scholarly attainments at college, he was invited, after his graduation, to accept the position of instructor in Latin and natural history in the Kimbal Union Academy, at Meriden, N. H., where, with the interruption of one year only, he remained for fifteen years. This year of absence he spent at Andover, Mass., in the study of theology. Soon after this he was licensed, after examination, to preach the Gospel, but his ministry was never more than an occasional service among neighboring churches, in connection with his labor in the Academy. It was during his residence at Meriden that he first conceived the idea of



ALPHONSO WOOD.

preparing a text-book of botany, and this idea arose, first from his great fondness for the science, and secondly from his want, as a teacher of natural history, of a suitable work. The botanical text-books then extant were Eaton's Manual, Mrs. Lincoln's Botany, Bigelow's *Florula Bostoniensis* and Torrey's *Compendium*—all on the Linnean system. Dr. Beck's work, on the natural system, was not suited for class instruction, owing to the paucity of information in the introductory part. Dr. Gray's text-book was too voluminous and learned, and contained no flora. Prof. Wood visited Dr. Gray and suggested that the latter should prepare a more elementary work; but Dr. Gray either did not think such a book was then needed or had no time to devote to its preparation. Prof. Wood then determined to set about the preparation of a small book for use in his own classes. He contemplated nothing more than a pamphlet or small local flora on the plan of that of Bigelow, but according to the natural system, and preceded by an introduction to contain the elements of the science, with analytical tables. As he proceeded, the work

grew on his hands, and, after ten years of preparation, collecting of materials and teaching from the manuscript, the "Class Book of Botany" was put into the hands of the printer. The work, being an experiment, was not stereotyped, and only 1,200 copies were printed. An unexpectedly great demand soon exhausted this edition. In preparing for a new edition, the author passed the spring and summer of 1846 in the Western States (whither his parents had then removed), botanizing on prairies and in barrens, in order to extend the limits of his flora as far west as the Mississippi River. Having impaired his health by close attention to his duties, Prof. Wood was advised by his physician to seek some active out-door employment. Acting on this advice he resigned his professorship in the Kimbal Union Academy, and sought and obtained the position of chief engineer in the construction of a railway from Rutland, Vt., to Albany, N. Y. On the completion of this road, in 1852, he removed with his family to Cleveland, Ohio, where, in the Cleveland Female Seminary he resumed his profession as a teacher. Two years afterwards he disposed of his interest in the school and removed to College Hill, near Cincinnati, where he became professor in the Ohio Female College, and afterwards president of that institution. Here he passed six years; the College buildings in the meantime having been destroyed by fire, were rebuilt under his own supervision and restored to prosperity. In 1858, having transferred to others his interest in the College he resigned the presidency, and established, in connection with a friend, the Terre Haute Female College, an institution which in a very short time rose under his administration to great prosperity and usefulness. In the fall of 1860, in order to facilitate the reprinting of his books, Prof. Wood removed with his family to Brooklyn, N. Y. Previous to this time, in the year 1857, he had, for the purpose of collecting material for an enlargement of his "Class-Book," made an exploration of the Southern States, lasting six months, and another shorter one in his own carriage. Having completed the third reprint of the "Class-Book," he again resumed the profession of instruction, opening in 1861 the Brooklyn Female Academy, which, in spite of the war, proved a great success. But the love of his favorite science again enticed him away; and, in 1865, after placing his affairs in Brooklyn in trusty hands, Prof. Wood, leaving his wife at Freehold, N. J., and his son at the New York University, set out alone for California. In this excursion he spent more than a year, traveling from San Diego to Puget's Sound, and returning by the way of the Isthmus in November, 1866. Much of this journey was done on horseback, and a part of it on foot and alone, and amid many hardships, dangers and privations. Prof. Wood loved to bear testimony in after years to the hospitality which was everywhere accorded him in this excursion. If night overtook him at the door of the trapper's hut, the miner's shanty, the stockade of the herdsman's ranche, or the Governor's mansion, the same kind greeting met him in each case. Among the rough trappers and miners he not unfrequently found educated, cultured men, who rendered him no little assistance in his pursuits.

Arriving at his home in Brooklyn, in 1867, he disposed of his interests there and collected his family into a new home in the village

of West Farms, which was then a suburb but is now a portion of the City of New York. The last years of Prof. Wood's life were mainly employed in revising and republishing his several text-books on botany, which include the following works: "Class-Book of Botany," (1845); "Object Lessons in Botany" (1862); "Botanist and Florist" (1870); "Plant Record" (1872); "Fourteen Weeks in Botany" (1879, written jointly with Prof. J. D. Steele); and "Flora Atlantica" (1879). In addition to these educational works, Prof. Wood wrote a "Monograph of the Liliaceae," which was communicated to the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, and published in its *Proceedings* of June, 1868. At the time of his death he occupied the Chair of Botany in the New York College of Pharmacy, a position which he had filled for two years.\*

§ 49. **The Preparation of Fleishy Pileate Fungi for the Herbarium.**†—To the preparations previously described, still others may be added. If it be desired to exhibit, in a lamellate species, a view of the under surface of the pileus with the gills, the fleshy portion of the upper surface of one of the halves must be shaved off close to the gills, and the preparation laid, gills upward, on moist gelatine-paper, and submitted to pressure as before described. This proceeding is not well adapted for all lamellate fungi, but succeeds best with those species which, like *Cantharellus*, have decurrent gills; for these it is of great value. To prepare such fungi as these, a vertical section is made and from one or both of the halves the flesh is so nearly all removed that but just sufficient is left to support the gills. Then the flesh is removed from the interior of the stipe, and the fungus is ready for the gelatine-paper and press. The very small lamellate fungi, whose fleshy substance is very thin, may be simply dried between bibulous paper, under pressure, without any preparation, and afterwards be kept in paper envelopes. Of most of these species, however, there can be made very good vertical sections, which, after being dried on gelatine-paper, may be placed in the envelope with the other specimen. The species of the genus *Marasmius* are composed of a tough substance, which, after being dried, becomes soft again when placed in water. The larger fungi of this genus likewise may, therefore, be dried without preparation, since the specimens thus treated, on being moistened with water, assume again their original form, just as mosses and lichens do under the same circumstances. It is, nevertheless, recommended that a few specimens of each species of this genus be also prepared by the method under consideration.

We now come to the details of the method, which hitherto has been described only in a general way.

In most of the *Agaricini* there are found between the lamellae which radiate from the stipe to the circumference of the cap a few shorter ones, which start from the edge of the pileus but do not reach the stipe; and these are of various lengths. Often, too, the lamellae

\*Abstract of a "Biographical Sketch of Prof. Wood," read by Dr. O. R. Willis before the Torrey Botanical Club, March 8th.

†Continued from page 34.